as a subject of higher education as opined by Prof. C.N.R. Rao in a recent newspaper article;

(b) if so, the main reasons for it; and

(c) what steps are being contemplated to encourage youth to take to Pure Science?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAIRAMJIBHAIKATHIRIA): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), there has been a slight decline in enrolment in Science subjects at undergraduate level. This is due to the fact that unlike in the past, now there are several options available for the youth to select courses from amongst job oriented professional and IT. degree courses. However, the data available with UGC shows slight increase in students enrolment in postgraduate courses in various subjects like Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology. The UGC is promoting higher education/research in pure science by providing assistance to university departments/colleges under various schemes like Special Assistance Programme/Strengthening of Infrastructure in Science and Engineering/Technology, etc. Teachers are encouraged to undertake projects (Major/Minor) in different areas. The UGC has initiated a scheme of National Lecturer as per which toppers in science subjects are eligible for lecturership.

Less funds for basic education

5192. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the allocation of less funds for basic education is one of the main obstacle to bridge the huge gap in the next decade;

(b) if so, details of the allocation made and expenditure incurred during the last three financial years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the rich-poor gap among the students at the primary and elementary school levels has also widened; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) During the Ninth Plan Period, Rs. 14,523 crores have been spent on basic education. An allocation of Rs. 28,750 crores has been provided for the Tenth Five Year Plan for basic

education which is approximately double the Ninth Plan expenditure! Efforts are being made to obtain additional funds.

(b) The requisite information is given in the table below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Allocation (RE)	Actual Expenditure
200041	3152.00	311829
2001-02	3577.05	357136
2002-03	4269.07	426159

(c) and (d) Sarva Shiksha Abihyan (SSA) launched by the Department, for children in the 6-14 age group, aims at achieving the goal of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) by the end of 2010.

Coverage of Quality Education

5193. SHRI VIJAY J.DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the proposed coverage of imparting of quality education by IIT/ IIM faculty members to coach via the satellite from a Central studio through VSAT, and is the programme so structured will benefit majority of students all over the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether this will be supplementing the existing system of education or supplementing it gradually ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAIRAMJI BHAIKATHIRIA): (a) and (b) To reach quality education imparted in IITs and IIMs to majority of students all over the country using modem technologies including VSAT. Government has taken up a National Programme for Technology Enhanced Learning (NP-TEL) in the country. In this Programme, video based and web based courseware will be developed by faculty from IITs to be delivered to students throughout the country. This shall be extended to IIMs and Management Programmes in due course. This would supplement existing system of education.

In addition, IIT Bombay has started a Post Graduate Diploma in Information Technology (PGDIIT) and IIM Kozhikode has started one-year Certificate Programme in Management using satellite based VSAT network. These programmes are available to students, faculty and working professionals throughout the country.